

October/ November 2005

Volume 2, Issue 7

Note from the Consul General

Dear friends,

How quickly the months are flying. It is hard to believe my posting in Perth is nearly at the halfway point.

Amcits, if you have not yet registered with the Consulate, please do so now! (See p. 5.)

Finally, best wishes for the holidays and the New Year to all of Consulate General Perth's supporter and friends.

Warm regards,

Robin

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

DVC on the "Iraqi General Election"

Interfaith Reception

PERTH PERSPECTIVES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL

16 St. Georges Terrace, Perth 6000, WA, Australia



USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Anchors at Gage Road



USS Nimitz (CVN 68) before she anchored at Gage Road

The USS Nimitz (CVN 68) paid a successful port call to Western Australia October 7—11. More than five thousand sailors and marines spent five days enjoying Fremantle, Perth, and Bunbury's hospitality. Rear Admiral Peter H. Daly, Commander, Nimitz Strike Group, and Consul General Robin McClellan hosted an evening reception onboard for over four hundred Perth guests. Nimitz crewmembers participated in tours of the Swan Valley and Rottnest and competed in a greco-roman wrestling exhibition match.

Many crewmembers enjoyed the Australian American Association's "Host a Sailor" program as families invited crewmembers for home hospitality. Volunteers from the Nimitz worked on projects for Mission Australia and Rocky Bay. LCDR Phil Francois said, "If the numerous letters and phone calls of praise and gratitude I received are any indication, this was one of the best recorded visits."

The USS Nimitz (CV 68) was commissioned on May 3, 1975. The ship's overall length expands 1,092 feet and the overall width is 252 feet.



Photo courtesy Greg Ross.

Commander in Chief of all U.S. Forces in the Pacific Visits Perth



Left to right: Sen. Mark Bishop, CG McClellan, Dr. Peter Tannock, Admiral Fallon, Mayor Peter Tagliaferri and Hon Graham Edwards

Commander U.S. Pacific Command Admiral William J. Fallon, USN, visited Perth on November 16. Admiral Fallon is the senior commander of U.S. military forces in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. The headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Command are located at Camp H.M. Smith in Hawaii. Admiral Fallon commands approximately 300,000 service members. The mission of the U.S. Command, in concert with other U.S. government agencies and regional military partners, is to promote security and peaceful development in the Asia-Pacific region by deterring aggression, advancing regional security cooperation, and responding to crises.

During Admiral Fallon's visit to Perth he spoke at a roundtable breakfast for political, business, media leaders and senior academics hosted by the Vice Chancellor of Notre Dame University in Fremantle. Directly following the breakfast, Admiral Fallon delivered remarks on "The U.S./Australia Relationship and the Strategic Alliance in the Pacific" to Notre Dame students and faculty and members of the Australian American Association. Rohallah Ali Haidari, a Notre Dame student from Afghanistan was one of the guests at the lecture. Rohallah later wrote that he was "so glad to listen to and meet Admiral Fallon," in particular because he has a "deep passion for his country as a close ally of the U.S. against regional tyranny and international terrorism."



Above: Admiral Fallon and CG McClellan with Afghani student Rohallah Ali Haidari at Notre Dame.

Admiral Fallon also met with Premier Geoff Gallop and visited Austal Ships and HMAS Stirling during his visit to Perth.

Indiana University Student Interns at Consulate



Jim Hoff from Indiana University interned at the Consulate in October and November. Jim was in Perth studying at UWA as part of the Study Abroad program and will return to Indiana University where he will complete a Political Science degree. During his time with us, Jim did a magnificent job. We greatly appreciated his initiative, independence and ingenuity and we thank him for his considerable contributions. Good luck, Jim!

Left: CG McClellan presents certificate and reference to Intern Jim Hoff.

Veteran's Day — Lest we Forget



The Consul General joined WA dignitaries in laying wreaths at the Remembrance Day ceremony. Lieutenant Commander Phil Francois laid a wreath on behalf of the US Navy, and Mr. Michael Munjak represented the North American Veterans' Unit (NAVU). The Consul General also attended the Returned Service League Remembrance Day Luncheon.

Left:: NAVU members Michael Munjak, Mike Donnelly, Victor Lane, and CG McClellan with WA Premier Geoff Gallop.

The Australian American Association Veteran's Day picnic held in Kings Park on November 13 brought together several families for an afternoon of fun and games.

Pictured below are Norma Griffiths, Jim Whittle, Rich Tilghman, CG McClellan, Rick Westerdale, Gabriele Westerdale, Clive Griffiths, and Isobell, Mark and Lisa Laidlaw.



Above: LCDR Phil Francois

Consulate General Visitor to Perth

Visiting Speaker Dr. Bates Gill, October 17 & 18, 2005

Dr. Bates Gill, the Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, commenced his Perth visit with an off-the-record breakfast discussion hosted by WA Business News. Participants included the former Premier of Western Australia, oil and gas executives, government officials and corporate executives. Dr. Gill discussed the strategic and economic reasons to be positive as well as concerned about China's rise. Questions raised included the issue of exporting uranium to China, the status of the Taiwan/China relationship, as well as the Japan/China relationship.



Harold Kleyn, Mark Beyer, Mark Pownall, Dr. Bates Gill and CG Robin McClellan



Penelope Williamson, Dr. Bates Gill and Steve Arnott

The American Chamber of Commerce hosted Dr. Gill at a private luncheon with twenty business professionals, government officials and academia. Dr. Gill spoke on, "U.S. Perspectives on China's 'Peaceful Rise'." He talked of how China's emergence has been guided by three key aims: domestic stability and economic development; reassuring neighbors about China's rise; and overarching concern with domestic stability and economic growth that has fostered a more positive foreign and security policy which seeks cooperative, non-confrontational relations with nearly all of its neighbors, as well as within a range of multilateral forums both regionally and globally.

The Australia China Business Council and the Australian American Association joined to sponsor an event at the University Club at the University of Western Australia at which Dr. Gill spoke on the above topic to an audience of eighty professionals and academics. He also touched on how China's economic growth has translated in significantly improved military capability.



ACBC President Des Williams, Dr. Bates Gill and CG Robin McClellan



At an early morning lecture hosted by the University of Western Australia's Confucius Institute, Dr. Gill spoke on, "How Economic Development and Social Change are Shaping a New China." He talked about China's economic and social changes and what the implications will be, not just for China, but for others.

Left: Students with Dr. Gill and Confucius Institute Director Gary Sigley (right).

STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC WARNINGS

Travel warnings and public announcements are available on the Department of State website at <http://www.travel.state.gov> or outside the U.S and Canada call toll free 1-317-472-2328



American College & University Information Advising Service

In November the Consul General wrote to 105 high school counselors to ensure they are familiar with the services of the U.S. Education Advising Service. The office is located at the University of Western Australia,

Physics Building, 2nd Floor. Contact Ms. Lee Healy at
6488-8680



edadvper@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

For more information, visit:

<http://usembassy-australia.state.gov/education>

Online Registration:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>

The State Department's secure online travel registration website allows U.S. citizens to record foreign trips and residence information. U.S. citizens around the world who travel or reside abroad can access the IBRS (Internet-Based Registration System) either through a link on: <http://travel.state.gov> or directly at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>. The IBRS will allow both short-trip and long-term travelers abroad to provide their itinerary, residence and emergency contact information. Alternatively, you may complete a printed registration form available from our website at:

<http://perth.usconsulate.gov>

CONSULAR SECTION HARD AT WORK

DURING THE MONTHS OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, THE
CONSULAR SECTION OF THE US CONSULATE HANDLED THE

FOLLOWING:

VISAS: 496

PASSPORTS: 284

BIRTHS: 36

TRIVIA QUESTION

Q. When was Coca-Cola invented and by whom?

LAST TRIVIA QUESTION:

Q. What current branch of the U.S. military was a corps of only 50 personnel when World War 1 broke out?

A. The U.S. Air Force

Foreign Service Exam

The Foreign Service exam is open to any American citizen under the age of 55 years. For information on joining the Foreign service, the Foreign Service exam, or when the next exam will take place, please visit:

<http://www.careers.state.gov/officer/>

Digital Video Conferences

Countering Nuclear Proliferation in Iran, Oct. 14, 2005



Above: The Consul General pictured with University of WA Political Science Students at the Counter Proliferation DVC.

The Consulate General hosted a DVC on “Countering Nuclear Proliferation in Iran” on October 14. The CG opened the DVC, which drew an audience of over 50, comprising reps from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, think tank organizations, NGO reps, and academics and political science and international relations students from local universities. Representatives of Greenpeace and Nuclear Free Fremantle also attended. Mr. Wolf delivered brief remarks on how Iran is in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and as such is the most dangerous threat to the world. He emphasized the importance of the international community not accepting this violation and how the world should recognize the implications of Iran being in breach of the NPT.

Avian/Bird Flu Preparedness & Response DVC, Nov. 30

The DVC on “Avian/Bird Flu Preparedness & Response,” held at the University Club theatre at the University of Western Australia, drew an audience of 140 key stakeholders, including WA Health Department officials, reps from various local hospitals and health services, aged care providers, pathologists, microbiologists and academics. Prior to the DVC link up, the Divisional Director, Health Protection Group at the Department of Health in Western Australian, delivered insightful remarks on the preparations and controls the WA Health Department has in place in the event of an Avian flu pandemic. He also provided background details on the history and classification of influenza, how the virus is spread, the worst case estimate of infections (1.4 million) and deaths in WA (600 to 2,100) should a pandemic occur, and the potential response of the WA government.



CG McClellan, Dr. Andy Robertson, Adjunct Professor Bernard Laurence & Mr. David Edwards

U.S. speaker Dr. Scott Dowell reported on his experiences with 15 family cluster cases of H5N1 avian influenza in Thailand. He noted that up to 50 percent of those presented with Avian flu died as a result of the infection. He confirmed that in at least one example occurring in Thailand, the spread of the infection was person-to-person. Dr. Dowell strongly recommended the need for a very aggressive health response led by international organizations with experience in the field, such as the WHO. Dr. Karen Becker delivered insightful remarks on the U.S. position on Avian flu, and she spoke of the U.S. National strategy and the protective measures in place. She emphasized the importance of international planning. She reported that given the fact the disease knows no borders, the U.S. is working with Australia and other countries in order to prepare for a possible global pandemic.

Thanksgiving

In 1621 the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast which is now known as the first Thanksgiving. While menu items and table etiquette may have changed over the years, Americans still celebrate each year in a spirit of Thanksgiving. A number of groups in WA hosted events: The Consul General presented President Bush's Thanksgiving Proclamation at the American Chamber of Commerce's lunch on the stage at His Majesty's Theatre, and also at the American Women's Club dinner at Hillary's Yacht Club. She also attended the Stars & Bars dinner at the WA Club.



Left: American Chamber of Commerce members and guests enjoyed turkey with all the trimmings on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre.

President Hoover's Inauguration Wreath

On October 27, Historian & Curator Jan McCallum invited CG McClellan to view President Herbert Hoover's wreath which is on display at the Young Australia League (YAL) headquarters in Murray Street. The wreath was presented to YAL members who were visiting Washington when President Hoover was inaugurated as President in 1930.



Above: Mrs. Jan McCallum of the YAL with the CG

U.S./Australia Affinity Groups

Interested in meeting other Americans? Are you an Australian or resident with special ties to the United States? Just want to meet some fun people? On of these groups should fit you to a "T".

The American Women's Club (open to women of all nationalities) - AWC President Virginia Limberg - 9474 2219 or www.AWCPerth.org

American Chamber of Commerce WA - AmCham WA General Manager Penelope Williamson - 9325 9540

The Australian American Association - Membership Coordinator Richard Adams - 9284 6288

The North American Veterans' Unit — President Joan Gravelle — 0421 420 498

Consul General Receives Photograph of World War II Servicemen



John Pritchard, CG McClellan, Victor Paino and
Father John Sherman

The Consul General was honored to be presented with a unique photograph of World War II servicemen taken in 1943 outside the Basilica of St. Patrick's in Fremantle.

Mr. Victor Paino, the Basilica Restoration Campaign President, presented the photo on Nov. 10 in recognition of America's role in protecting Australia in WW II, and in remembrance of the many American servicemen and women who visited the Basilica. The photograph features a group of sailors from America, Australia, Britain, France, Holland and New Zealand who sought solace at St. Patrick's during World War II. Built in 1900, the Basilica is a magnificent limestone building in Federation Gothic-style and is complete with flying buttresses. Later in 1924, the front towers were completed and a new oriel window installed. Two of the finest organs in Australian churches today complete its historical and architectural beauty, as well as a high altar, beautiful stain glass windows, and Trinity tapestry.

In 1994, St. Patrick's was granted the status of Basilica and the next year was heritage listed. The Basilica and precinct are historical landmarks and are well known to the thousands who have used the Basilica since 1900.



Above: A copy of the photo of the World War II servicemen presented to the Consulate General.

Pakistani Earthquake Support



Dr. Samina Yasmeen, Director of the Centre for Muslim States & Societies and Mr. James Trevelyan, held a fundraising dinner for Pakistani earthquake victims on October 27 at the Hyatt Regency in Perth. All proceeds of the event, which the Consul General attended, went to the Australian Red Cross Appeal.

CG McClellan also attended a fundraising barbecue for the earthquake victims in Kings Park on November 12. All funds collected by the Pakistani Community in Perth were deposited into the President Relief Account.

Left: The Consul General with the Khan family at the Kings Park fundraising picnic.

Consulate Staff Visit WA Museum's "Secret Hiding Place"



Dr. Ian McLeod holds one of the museum exhibits

On November 9, Dr. Ian MacLeod, Principal Conservator of the WA Museum (and a former Fulbright Scholar) hosted Consulate staff on a tour of the Collections and Research Center of the WA Museum. An amazingly wide range of collections are stored at the museum storage facility.

Many thanks Dr. MacLeod for a wonderful tour!



Dr. McLeon and CG McClellan view intricate lace work from the turn of the last century

UNDA Law School Seminar on AUSFTA

On October 13, the CG addressed 40 employees of Jackson McDonald, a large independent law firm specializing in commercial law, on the US-Australia Free Trade Agreement. Phil Hoffman, an American attorney based in Queensland, also addressed the group. Present at the seminar were the firm's senior partners and associates, whom the CG met and spoke with after the event.

Phil Hoffman, CG McClellan and Murdoch University Dean of Law Gabriel Moens



Hoover's Gold

The Consul General launched the premiere of "Hoover's Gold" — a documentary on the WA history of U.S. President Herbert Hoover at Government House Ballroom on November 15. Mago Films, the producer of the film, and ScreenWest hosted the event. In her remarks Consul General McClellan highlighted the close historical ties shared by America and Australia. Cinema Paradiso will screen Hoover's Gold on December 10 and 11 at 5:00 pm. Go see it!



Above: The Consul General with members of Perth's Italian Men's Chorus, who performed at the launch.

Fulbright Dinner

The Annual Fulbright Dinner was held the evening of November 18. Pictured right are CG McClellan, Per Henningsgaard (US Fulbright Scholar from Minnesota studying Publishing at UWA), Mark Darby/Executive Director Australian-American Fulbright Commission, Toyin Okanlawon (US Fulbright scholar from North Carolina studying Public Health at Curtin University), Professor Alan Robson Vice Chancellor at UWA, and Brooke Scelza (US Fulbright Scholar from Seattle studying Anthropology at UWA).



Karrakata Club

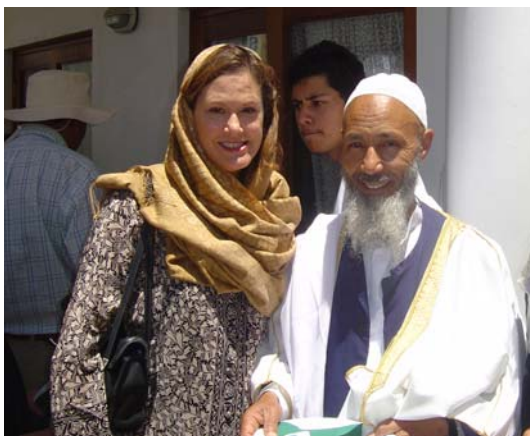
On November 18, CG McClellan was the guest speaker at a monthly luncheon held at the Karrakata Club.

The CG spoke to an audience of 200 about her role as a Consul General in Western Australia and the close ties between Australia and the U.S.



Above: Karrakata Club President Maureen Paris & CG McClellan

Perth Mosque Celebrates Centenary



WA's Perth Mosque, the nation's oldest continuously operating mosque, marked its 100th anniversary November 20 in a festive celebration emphasizing the twin themes of multiculturalism and respect for Australian law. More than 200 diplomats, including CG Perth and the Malaysian Consul, politicians, Muslims and non-Muslims attended the event. Mosque spiritual leader Sheikh Mahmoud Omran highlighted the 100-year presence of Muslims in WA and urged WA Muslims to be active participants in Australian Democracy. Keynote speaker Premier Gallop stressed that WA's successful multiethnic model depended on the respect of all citizens for Australian laws and democracy.

Left: CG McClellan with Sheikh Omran

Barbecue with Indigenous Students

Students, teachers and AISWA Future Footprints Steering Committee members attended a barbecue on November 20 hosted by the CG at her residence. Feedback from the event was that the day fulfilled many functions, from finding out what a Consul General does, meeting the representative of another country, valuing Indigenous culture, a networking opportunity, as well as the students just getting together and having fun.

Right: State parliamentary representative Tony McRae (center top) joins students, teachers and CG McClellan at the barbecue.



Interfaith Dialogue & Australian Approaches

The Hon. Alexander Downer, Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, discussed Interfaith Dialogue and Australian Approaches at a luncheon meeting held on November 21 at the University Club hosted by the Centre for Muslim States & Societies.

Left: CG McClellan, Hon. Alexander Downer & Dr. Samina Yasmeen of UWA.

Andy Thomas Medal Presentation



Corpus Christi High School student Sophie Bowen is the Western Australian winner of the Andy Thomas Medal Competition. On November 22, CG McClellan presented Sophie with her medal.

The competition is the initiative of astronaut and engineer, Dr. Andy Thomas. Prior to the 14-day mission aboard Shuttle Discovery, Dr.

Thomas invited students from across Australia to share their views on why studying science and math is important to Australia's future. Hundreds of entries were received and one winner was selected from each state and the Northern Territory. The keepsake traveled 9,328,432 kilometers over 13 days. Congratulations Sophie!



Sophie Bowen with her parents Simon and Joanne Bowen and Corpus Christi Principal Vaughan Sadler



Rydges Perth Charity Golf Day

"How Did a Nice Girl Like Me End Up In a Job Like This?" was one of the questions the Consul General answered in a speech to 160 golfers at a lunch as part of the Rydges Perth Corporate Charity Golf Day. The CG explained the role of the Consulate General and stressed the close relationship between the United States and Australia. The Consul General spoke at the request of vision impaired golfer Ron Conway, who organized the event to benefit the Dennis Lilee Disabled Sports Foundation, which provides funding to support people with disabilities in sport and recreation throughout Western Australia.



Above: Rydges General Manager David Bornmann

And more...

October & November were full months — Consulate General staff also delivered remarks or otherwise participated in the following events:

Oct. 5 — Consular Corps AGM held at WA Club.

Oct. 8 — BHP Billiton/Chinese Chamber of Commerce Charity Ball at the Burswood Convention Centre.

Oct. 11 — GSM Women in Business Boardroom Luncheon at the University Club.

Oct. 12 — Spanish National Day Reception at the Royal Perth Yacht Club.

Oct. 15 — BP Australia Dinner & Concert at the Perth Concert Hall.

Oct. 20 — Consular Corps Annual Dinner at the Royal Perth Yacht Club.

Oct. 24 — City of Perth/Nobel Prize Reception at Perth Town Hall.

Nov. 2 — WASO Corporate Partners Dinner at the Hyatt Regency.

Nov. 7 — AHA Gala Ball at the Burswood International Resort

Nov. 19 — Australian Opera Studio Dinner

Nov. 22 — AmCham Sponsors & Supporters Meeting at AmCham Perth Headquarters & the British Consul General Stuart Gregson's Farewell at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel.



The Consul General (pictured above with opera students) stressed cultural ties between the US and Australia in remarks at the Opera Studio dinner.



Press Coverage of Consulate General events in this period included: **Oct. 22**—

Suburban paper story on the Host A Sailor Program. **Nov. 16**—The West Australian Social Pages covered the AHA Gala Ball. **Nov. 19**—Coverage of Admiral William Fallon describing Fremantle as an ideal area for exchange of US warship crew. **Nov. 19** — Coverage of Admiral William Fallon's comments on Austal Ships ferry technology. **Nov. 19** — Fremantle Rooster coverage of Admiral Fallon's visit to Notre Dame. **Nov. 29** — Melville Times coverage of the Andy Thomas Medal Presentation to Corpus Christi High School student Sophie Bowen.